

What we claim is:

1. A method for managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as bytes frames are transmitted, said
5 ring network comprising
nodes or network elements; and
spans of optical fibers, said optical fiber spans connecting the network elements to
form working channels and protection channels,
the method comprising the step, performed by the nodes adjacent to the ring failure, of
10 sending suitable ring failure signalings and wherein it further comprises the steps of
verifying that the protection channels have been restored;
in the case where the verification is positive, maintaining the protection
corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time; and
once such predetermined time has elapsed, managing the event as a span event.
- 15 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time comprises the step, performed by the node adjacent to the event that sees the event on the working channel, of activating a timer inside it.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of managing the event
20 as a span event is started not before the expiration of said timer.
4. A network element capable of managing the transition between a ring event and a span event in a telecommunications network with a ring topology protected by a traffic protection mechanism in which signals arranged as bytes frames are transmitted, said ring network comprising:

nodes or network elements; and

spans of optical fibers, said optical fiber spans connecting the network elements

to form a ring and comprising working channels and protection channels,

the network element comprising means for generating and sending suitable ring failure
 5 signalings and wherein it further comprises:

means for verifying that the protection channels have been restored;

means for maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a
 predetermined time in the case where the verification is positive; and

means for managing the event as a span event once such predetermined time has
 elapsed.

5. The network element according to claim 4, wherein said means for
 maintaining the protection corresponding to a ring event for a predetermined time
 comprise a timer inside the network element.

6. A computer program comprising computer program code means adapted
 15 to carry out all the steps of the method according to claims 1 to 3 when said program is
 run on a computer.

7. A computer-readable medium having a program recorded thereon, said
 computer-readable medium comprising program code means adapted to carry out all the
 steps of the method according to claims 1 to 3 when said program is run in a computer.